



POLICY: TITLE DRINKING WATER QUALITY:
ONTARIO DRINKING WATER OBJECTIVES (ODWO)

15-D6-D1

the Ontario Water Resources Act, R.S.O. 1980.
Section 7(1)(d), Section 23 and Section 44

This policy deals with the protection and enhancement of drinking water quality as described in the Ministry of the Environment document entitled "Ontario Drinking Water Objectives". The policy is intended to protect public health and encourage the provision of aesthetically pleasing water.

The quality of drinking water shall conform to the limits described in the aforementioned document except where indicated otherwise. Where the quality of drinking water is better than provincial limits, every effort shall be made to maintain or improve that quality.

Maximum Acceptable Concentration

Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) is the term used for limits applied to substances above which there are known or suspected adverse health effects.

November 12, 1986

Point of Contact Director, Water Resources Branch

April 27, 1983

Interim Maximum Acceptable
Concentration

Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentrations (IMAC) is the term used to describe limits for substances of current concern with known chronic effects in mammals and for which there are no established Maximum Acceptable Concentrations.

Target Concentration

Target Concentration, a term applied only to radionuclides, is intended to be a guideline for life-long continuous consumption.

Maximum Desirable
Concentration

Maximum Desirable Concentration (MDC) is the term used for limits on substances which, when present at concentrations above the limits, are either aesthetically objectionable to an appreciable number of consumers or may interfere with good water quality control practices.

1. Policy Statements

1.1 Source Protection
and Treatment

All drinking water systems shall have acceptable source protection and treatment processes to ensure that the appropriate limits for drinking water are met.

1.2 Sampling and
Monitoring

Adequate sampling and monitoring programs are to be undertaken for chemical, physical, radiological and microbiological parameters, to ensure compliance with required water quality criteria.

1.3 Non-compliance

Whenever adverse sampling or monitoring results are encountered, appropriate response procedures are to be followed.

1.4 Notices

Drinking Water Notices will be issued as required, to clarify or otherwise give notice of revisions to the Ontario Drinking Water Objectives document and its related policies and guidelines.

2. Policy Available

Details on the above policy statements may be found in the document entitled "Ontario Drinking Water Objectives", which was revised in April, 1982, and is available from the Water Resources Branch.